GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

CAF & CS DEPARTMENT – Public Distribution System –Supply of Quality Rice in Packed form under PDS – Group of Ministers Committee Recommendations – Acceptance – Orders – Issued.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (CS.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 15 Dated: 15-12-2019

Read the following:

1. G.O.Rt.No.43, CAF & CS (CS.I) Department, dated:29-07-2019.
2. Minutes of Group of Ministers (GoM) Meeting for Door-Step Delivery of Packaged Rice held on 20-08-2019.
3. Minutes of Group of Ministers (GoM) Meeting for Door-Step Delivery of Packaged Rice held on 18-09-2019 and 19-10-2019.

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ORDER:

Government vide ref 1st cited, has constituted a Committee with 1. Minister for Finance 2. Minister for Agriculture 3. Minister for Housing and 4. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies (Group of Ministers) to examine various options to improve the quality of rice including sortex, bagging material and bagging machinery and also to come up with suitable recommendations needed to improve quality of rice in the public distribution system and to start the door step delivery of rice to eligible households in packed form.

2. The Ex. Officio Secretary to Government, Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department is the convenor of the above Group of Ministers Committee.

3. The terms and Conditions of the Committee are as follows:

i. To negotiate with the rice millers regarding the charges/incentives to be paid to the millers towards improved quality parameters including sortex, reduction of discoloured/broken grains etc

ii. To finalize the appropriate packaging machinery and bagging material.

iii. To recommend appropriate measures to encourage small and medium rice mills to install sortex machinery and participate in the new programme.

4. Accordingly, the Group of Ministers Committee in their first meeting held on 20/08/2019 at 10.00 A.M., at secretariat had discussed the issues relating to supply of rice with improved quality parameters at the door step of eligible beneficiaries in tamper proof and weighment assured packets through village/ward volunteers and vide reference 2nd cited, made the following recommendations .

a. Block bottom Poly Propylene (PP) bags with heat sealing can be used either with valve type sealing machinery or single side open mouth bags and sealing with the equipment.

b. During the initial rollout, block bottom open mouth bags can be used with stitching and tape seal on one side and subsequently shift to heat sealing.

c. Environment friendly biodegradable packaging materials like paper and cloth should be explored for financial and operational feasibility and if feasible, APSCSCL should shift to utilizing such alternates for packaging material.

d. The nozzle-type machinery for valve type bags is recommended since it provides tamper-proof heat sealing. APSCSCL should evaluate such machines from different suppliers at 3-4 locations as a Proof of Concept, before finalizing the machinery for full-fledged rollout. If cloth/paper bags are finalized for the long term, the machinery should be compatible to such cloth/paper bags.

e. It was finally agreed upon that an outturn ratio at 92.5% will be fixed for reprocessing of existing stock of Custom Milled Rice, which will include loading, unloading, sortex, grading as well as repacking. Hence for every 100 Kg of rice supplied by APSCSCL to the rice millers, the miller will provide 92.5 Kg of rice in the packet sizes of 5 kg, 10 kg, 15 kg and 20 Kg bags.

f. APSCSL will supply the packaging material and will bear the transportation changes from buffer godown to the rice mill and from rice mill to the MLS or Village Level Stock point as the case may be.

g. The miller will be allowed to retain the by-product to cover its charges for Sortex, Grading, Packaging, Loading and Unloading but they shall return the gunny bags to APSCSCL.

h. A plan of action to be developed in consultation with Agriculture Department to shift the production of other variety of paddy towards more preferred varieties or alternate crops.

5. The subsequent meetings of Group of Ministers were conducted on 18th September, 2019 and 19th October, 2019 at APSCSCL office, Vijayawada, to discuss the following issues:

I. the action taken on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers in the meeting held on 20-08-219, feedback and Learnings from Srikakulam Pilot Launch.

II. Selection of Model for CMR milling from KMS 2019 onwards.

III. Negotiation for additional miller charges for supply of improved quality sortex rice with less broken, damaged & discoloured.

IV. Evaluation of options for bio-degradable Packaging Material.

6. After discussing the above issues in detailed, the Group of Ministers deliberated on the terms of reference and made the following further recommendations vide reference 3 rd cited.

i. Rice Millers will deliver, only swarna and equivalent variety of rice to APSCSCL from KMS 2019 onwards, without mixture of varieties under CMR.

ii. APSCSCL would provide a compensation at Rs.600/-(Rupees six hundred only) per MT of CMR delivered to APSCSCL for sortex charges, without any Government subsidy towards electricity. All other fixed costs/additionalities related to upgradation of LT connection to HT connection including all monthly power charges would be borne by the rice millers.

iii. The compensation of Rs.600/MT would also be applicable to existing mills who have HT connection and deliver CMR with sortex machines.

iv. Rice Mills who do not have sortex facilities shall install sortex machinery at their own cost without any Government subsidy.

v. Conversion ratio of 67% will be maintained and incentive will be paid to rice millers in lieu of the differential quantity of CMR equivalent rice to be supplied with improved quality parameters.

vi. APSCSCL will reimburse Rs.500/-(Rupees five hundred only) against every MT of improved quality balance CMR equivalent rice supplied by the Rice Millers from out of Millers own paddy stocks.

vii. The APSCSCL, should recollect the used PP Bags from the beneficiaries and arrange for reverse logistics of these bags for recycling as a measure to curtail environmental damage.

7. After careful examination of the entire issue, the recommendations of the Group of Ministers Committee at paras (4) & (6) above are hereby accepted by the Government.

8. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Vice Chairman and Managing Director, A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Vijayawada shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

KONA SASIDHAR,
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Vice-chairman and Managing Director, A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Vijayawada.
Copy to:
The OSD to Minister for Finance, Government of A.P., A.P. Secretariat.
The OSD to Minister for Agriculture, Government of A.P., A.P. Secretariat.
The OSD to Minister for Housing, Government of A.P., A.P. Secretariat.
The OSD to Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of A.P., Secretariat.
The P.S. to Secretary to C.M., A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The P.S. to Principal Secretary Finance, Finance Department, A.P. Secretariat. SF/SC

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER